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NEWSLETTER

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Editor: Rick Farrant

HIGHER
EDUCATION IN
MONTANA

Editorial...

Looking at Intercollegiate Sports

One of the most emotional, complex and least understood problems facing higher education today, not only in Montana but nationwide, is the issue of intercollegiate athletics. Studies are underway at present by the American Council on Education and the NCAA to examine the costs to colleges and universities of maintaining intercollegiate athletic programs. Governing boards, chancellors (or Commissioners of Higher Education) and presidents throughout the country are having to face squarely this growing problem.

Within the next several months the Board of Regents should reach some very basic decisions with respect to intercollegiate athletics in Montana in the Big Sky Conference and the Frontier Conference.

The problem is more visible on the larger campuses within the Big Sky Conference. The study which we conduct will pertain primarily to the University of Montana and Montana State University, but whatever policy the Regents make as a result will apply also to the Frontier Conference, which includes our four smaller campuses.

There are certain facts--or givens--with which we must begin. When we studied this topic over two years ago the data showed that the University of Montana and Montana State University approach intercollegiate athletics somewhat differently from the other institutions within the Big Sky Conference. Our two institutions rank at the bottom in total contributions from the State and from the students. Moreover, ours are the only two institutions in the conference where the student contribution is voluntary, rather than mandated. Finally, our two institutions are two of the top three in Century Club or Booster Club contributions to the intercollegiate athletic program. We

know, therefore, that in Montana, volunteer contributions are higher than in the rest of the conference and student and appropriated contributions are lower than in the rest of the conference institutions. It is an indelicate comment to make, but we know also that the University of Montana and Montana State University, in order to reduce the costs of athletic competition, have entered into an athletic conference of institutions which are, with possibly one exception, the academic inferiors of our two universities. We presume, in this same regard, that if the University of Montana and Montana State University were to compete in an athletic conference of academic equals it would be a much higher-powered conference and much more costly for us to participate.

We also know that student attitudes on intercollegiate athletics are divided, and that they vary from institution to institution. There are strong indications that the majority student sentiment at the University of Montana is negative toward the maintenance of an intercollegiate athletic program. These attitudes certainly must be taken into account. We know, too, that attitudes within the Legislature are mixed regarding intercollegiate athletics. We assume, though without hard data, that the public has mixed attitudes and that the alumni of the institutions probably are divided in the degree to which they accept an intercollegiate athletic program. Finally, as a "given" we have the action taken on a four-to-three vote by the Board of Regents on September 8. At that time the Regents decided that intercollegiate athletics is a program of the university or college rather than a student activity. What this means essentially is that if there is to be a student contribution it is

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Common Calendar Committee Begins

All six units in the Montana University System will soon initiate a questionnaire process designed to gather opinions from the students, faculty and administration on the subject of developing a common calendar.

Commissioner of Higher Education Lawrence K. Pettit appointed an inter-unit committee this summer to study the subject following a request made by the Board of Regents on June 13, 1975. The committee includes representatives from all six units.

Numerous studies have been made nationwide on the topic of developing a uniform calendar.

Choices for calendars include the traditional semester, early semester, quarter, trimester and 4-1-4.

Pettit said all units in Montana are currently operating on the quarter system with the exception of the Law

School at the University of Montana and Montana Tech which operate on a semester system.

The committee, according to Pettit, is directing its attention to the quarter and early semester calendars.

"If we're going to satisfy the mandate of our charge it would appear that somebody's going to have to make a change," Pettit said. "The change

would be beneficial to the students even though it could create some problems for some faculty members."

One alternative that the committee is considering deals with a method designed to conserve energy.

Said Pettit: "It may pay Higher Education to gear down their institutions during the colder months in order to conserve energy. It could be an alternative that we're forced to accept because of the energy situation."

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Peterson and Morrison join Regents

John Peterson, a lawyer from Butte, and Helena businessman, Jeff Morrison are the newest members of the Montana Board of Regents.

The two new members of the six-member board fill the spots vacated by Gary Gallagher, Missoula, January 2, 1975 and John D. French, Ronan, on February 1, 1975.

Gallagher submitted his resignation to Governor Judge after indicating that he had been harrassed by the Missoulian.

Said Gallagher: "The major reason for my resignation is the recent maligning of my name, capability and the raising of questions of doubt as to the purposes of my public service efforts by our local newspaper, the Missoulian."

Gallagher had said that he felt an article published in the Missoulian had implied that because he is a "successful businessman, (he) would not be able or willing to properly and honestly represent the citizens of Montana..."

French's position was left vacant after his term had been completed.

Peterson and Morrison will both serve on the Community College and Vocational Education Committee and the Capital Construction Committee. In addition, Peterson will serve on the new Faculty Collective Bargaining Committee and the By-Laws and Policy Committee.



MONTANA

Regents consider Athletics & Bureau of Mines

The issue of whether intercollegiate athletics is a program of the university or college or a student activity and, discussion on the future role of the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology highlighted the September 8, 1975 meeting of the Montana Board of Regents.

By a 4-3 vote, the regents defined intercollegiate athletics as a program of the university or college rather than a student activity.

Commissioner of Higher Education Lawrence K. Pettit initiated discussion on the issue by saying that the question of how to define intercollegiate athletics had been avoided for over two years.

Input during the discussion came from students, as well as from several institution presidents.

Also stemming from the discussion was a motion adopted to see that Pettit have his staff examine the funding of all intercollegiate athletic programs.

The regents also decided that the Bureau of Mines and Geology should remain a part of Montana Tech in Butte, but that consideration should be given to changing the bureau's name. The regent's decision came on the basis of a recommendation made by Pettit.

In his recommendation, Pettit said: "The Bureau of Mines should remain a part of the University System because of the symbiotic relationship between the bureau and the research and teaching function of at least three units of the university. . ."

Pettit added that "serious thought, however, should be given to removing the bureau administratively from Montana Tech at some point in the future. The physical facilities would naturally remain in Butte but it may be efficacious in the future to have the Bureau of Mines report directly to the Commissioner of Higher Education and to the Board of Regents through the Commissioner, rather than reporting to the president of Montana Tech."

On the basis of a report made by the Commissioner's Advisory Committee on the Bureau of Mines, Pettit also said serious consideration should be given to changing the name of the bureau to the Montana Geological Survey.

Pettit said there should be a follow-up study concerning the bureau and a report should be submitted to the Commissioner by August 1, 1976.

The regents also put to rest any questions raised by publicity relating to the Board's consideration of moving the U of M Law School to Helena. A suggestion about the move had been made by Regent John Peterson of Butte.

Peterson had said his suggestion was predicated on the fact that a number of students have been denied entrance into the Law School because of lack of physical space. He said he felt one solution could conceivably be to combine the U of M Law School Library with that of the state law library and move the school

(See Regents P. 7)

UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY
SYSTEM

AND POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

Taking a stab at conserving

The Montana University System is making a concerted effort to find ways of conserving energy at its six campuses.

Recently, Commissioner of Higher Education Lawrence K. Pettit appointed an 11-member inter-unit Committee on Energy Conservation. The Committee's intent is to make a total energy conservation plan for each unit.

Ideas presently being considered by the committee include the consolidation of night classes in one building to avoid using too many buildings; possibly reducing temperatures in the buildings at night; finding ways of rechanneling heat generated by lights.

"Unless the entire Montana University System personnel becomes energy conscious, our conservation program will not succeed," Pettit said, "The system will have to reduce energy waste or we may have to reduce faculty and staff positions to accommodate the additional cost."

Steps are already being taken to assure energy conservation in the University System.

University of Montana professor Maxine Johnson has volunteered one of her classes this fall to serve as a data acquisition and analysis team for energy conservation measures.

"Unless the entire Montana University System personnel becomes energy conscious, our conservation program will not succeed,"

Montana State University will send several senior or graduate students to investigate the feasibility of using hot water at Warm Springs to serve as a major source of heat required for space heating.

And, Pettit said he will appoint an inter-unit committee of physical plant managers who will meet periodically to discuss energy conservation and other mutual problems.

The Committee, Pettit said, will develop a building inspection checklist to assist physical plant personnel in checking each building to curtail energy waste.

A sub-committee has already been appointed to make an initial evaluation of the cost effectiveness of converting the University System to coal. Pettit said the cost of coal conversion would require a significant capital investment, but added, "Many people in the nation are converting to coal because of the oil crisis..."

"The supply and demand for Montana's coal assures us that we will have a consistent, regular supply of this energy source should this conversion be made. Although the decision to make this conversion may be made in the near future, I would emphasize that the actual conversion would take place farther in the future -- maybe by 1980."

Even when the University System interviews architects or engineers for construction projects at the various units, energy conservation will be stressed. "I'm convinced that the lifetime operating cost of a building is more significant than the initial cost," Pettit said.

"All too often we have, in the past, had to cut corners and have built as large buildings as possible considering only the initial cost. Then, we have tried to improve it as time went on.

It is," Pettit said, "extremely hard to insulate many buildings after they've been completed."

"Many people in the nation are converting to coal because of the oil crisis..."

Members of the inter-unit Committee on Energy Conservation are planning to attend

energy

the Fort Union Coal Conference October 13-15 at Bismark, N.D.

The purpose of the conference is to provide a forum for Montana, North Dakota and Wyoming to discuss the issue of the development of natural resources in the Fort Union Coal Formation.

Program Review

The Montana University System's Council of Academic Vice-Presidents has recommended that all graduate and low enrollment programs be reviewed during the next several years.

The recommendation stemmed from the council's first meeting held recently in Bozeman.

Scheduled for review in the 1975-76 academic year are the Ph. D. programs offered at more than one campus and both graduate and undergraduate programs in teacher education.

Working under the direction of Deputy Commissioner of Academic Affairs Freeman Wright, the academic vice-presidents will implement the priorities for program review established earlier by the Board of Regents and Commissioner of Higher Education Lawrence K. Pettit.

The council also recommended policies that would facilitate transfer of credits between the units of the Montana University System and, encouraged collaborative components in new program requests from all campuses. Wright said the purpose of the recommendation "is to reduce duplication and maximize efficient use of the resources of the state institutions of higher education."

Enrollment

Increases

Early indications were that the gross enrollment throughout the Montana University System would increase substantially this fall. Final enrollment reports from the six units, however, will not be made until the fifth week.

Eastern Montana College at Billings estimated that they would reach their highest gross enrollment increase since 1968. That school is anticipating a 13% increase.

At Montana Tech, officials were hoping to break the 1,000 barrier for the first time.

Northern Montana College officials are anticipating an 11.5% gross enrollment increase.

Western Montana College officials indicated that they were below last year's gross enrollment figure at this same time, but said they expected enrollment to pick up before the end of registration.

On the two larger campuses, gross enrollment figures showed significant increases over last year at the same time. On October 6, 1975, Montana State reported a gross enrollment of 8,855, while the University of Montana reported a gross enrollment figure of 8,786.

ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 6, 1975

UM.....	8,786
MSU.....	8,855
TECH.....	981
EMC.....	3,375
WMC.....	652
NMC.....	1,130

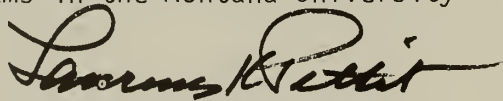
Athletics

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to be a mandated one rather than a voluntary or discretionary contribution.

There are certain kinds of data which we still need to have. For example, it would be helpful if someone could construct a cost-benefit model so that we could begin discussing not only the cost of intercollegiate athletics, but the return on our investment which we realize. For example, does the maintenance of an intercollegiate athletic program enhance alumni and public support for the university? At present we do not have sufficient information to answer that question. We need to know more also about alternative methods of financing intercollegiate athletics. We have to know what impact an intercollegiate athletic program has on enrollment at colleges and universities. We need to know if there is any relationship between an intercollegiate athletic program and philanthropic contributions for other purposes to the colleges and universities.

The decisions that must be reached are simple in their clarity but not so simple to deal with. We need to answer the question, "should we maintain intercollegiate athletic programs at all?" If the answer is "yes", we need to ask, "should we curtail these programs?" and if so, "How?" or "should we enlarge them?" and if so, "How?" Finally then, we need to address the very difficult question of, "If we continue with intercollegiate athletic programs, how do we finance them." These issues, when determined, may alter the nature and direction of athletic programs in the Montana University System.



Lawrence K. Pettit
Commissioner of Higher
Education

Items of interest involving the Montana University System will be aired over KGVO-TV the first Sunday of every month at 11:30 p.m.

The show, "Accent On...", can be seen in most areas throughout western Montana.

Wright named to post

Dr. Freeman J. Wright, former Dean of the College of Social Sciences at California State College at San Bernadino, was recently chosen to fill the new post of Deputy Commissioner for Academic Affairs for the Montana University System.

Wright, a Bozeman native, received his B.A. degree from Montana State University in 1955. He obtained his PH.D. at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore in 1964.

He has taught and held administrative posts at several universities in the U.S. and abroad. In addition, he is the author of a book entitled "Latin American Politics: A Developmental Approach" and several scholarly articles in political science. He has received numerous fellowships and grants.

Regent profile

Sidney R. Thomas was appointed by Governor Judge on November 26, 1974 to serve as a student member of the Board of Regents of Higher Education.

Thomas graduated from Montana State University at Bozeman last spring and is now attending the Law School at the University of Montana.

He has had a distinguished university career and is listed in "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities". At MSU, he was a member of Septemviri (senior men's honorary of seven members), Pi Kappa Delta (speech honorary), Director of the MSU Arts Board and president of MSU Forensics.

Thomas is the recipient of numerous speech awards and of the Dean's Honor Scholarship for Academic excellence. He also served as a legislative intern during the 1974 session.

As a student member on the board, he has full voting status and is the representative of students at all campuses in the Montana University System.

Much litigation!

A great deal of litigation involving the Montana University System is still hanging fire.

Litigation naming the Board of Regents, the Commissioner of Higher Education, the institutional presidents and the administrative staffs as defendants has raised questions on the subjects of tenure status, sex discrimination and faculty nonpromotion; to name a few.

No trial date has been set yet in the case of ex-professor James Jay Leland v.s. several officials at Eastern Montana College, the State of Montana, the State Board of Education and the Board of Regents of Higher Education.

The case was first filed in Federal District Court, but was dismissed without prejudice in July 1974 on the ground that the questions presented should be considered by a state court in the first instance. Leland refiled his action in state court, Yellowstone County, on January 28, 1975.

He claims that he was illegally terminated from employment at EMC and, that he was entitled to tenure status under the terms of Eastern's Faculty Handbook. He also claims that he was discriminated against in terms of rate of pay in that female faculty members of similar qualifications and with comparable years of service at EMC were compensated at a rate of pay greater than that which he received in his last year of employment.

He is asking for injunctive reinstatement to his former position and \$175,000 in punitive, special and compensatory damages.

A class-action suit brought by five female faculty members at Montana State---on behalf of all other female faculty members similarly situated---has been tried in federal court. A decision on that issue is expected soon.

The five plaintiffs in the suit, Helen Mecklenburg, Bette Lowery, Ellen Kreighbaum, Eleanor Pratt and Jean Claus, alledge that the institution has engaged in sex discrimination against female faculty members with regard to hiring, pay and promotional practices.

Still pending is a non-promotion suit filed by EMC professor Beal Mossman against several officials at the Billings school and Commissioner of Higher Education Lawrence K. Pettit.

Trial date has been set for Nov. 25, 1975 on action filed by a former MSU foreign languages professor on Oct. 14, 1974.

Another suit concerning non-resident nursing students at MSU has been taken to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

Regents

(Continued from Page 3)

to Helena to eliminate the limit of 75 students per year.

University of Montana President Richard Bowers said the law school does receive approximately 200 applicants each year---almost all of whom are qualified---and that approximately 90 qualified Montana residents are denied admission each year. He said this is based not only on lack of space, but because of the limited amount of funds budgeted for the faculty.

A motion was subsequently carried to see that Bowers report back to the regents on the admissions policies of the law school.

The Curriculum Committee recommended that Pettit be directed to present to the board by the March meeting, a recommendation on alternative organization structures for the Montana University System. The recommendation was accepted.

Still at it

Attorneys with the Montana University System and faculty at Eastern Montana College, Western Montana College and Northern Montana College have been engaging in collective bargaining.

Several other units in the system are still considering the process which deals with wages, hours, terms and conditions of employment.



Hello People . . .

There are a number of new faces in the Office of Commissioner of Higher Education:

Cathy Swift, a 1975 graduate of the University of Montana Law School, was recently selected as a staff lawyer. A native of Missoula, she will deal with litigation involving the Montana University System and collective bargaining.

Rick Farrant, a native of New York, was appointed by Commissioner of Higher Education Lawrence K. Pettit, to fill the position of Public Information Officer. His duties will include coordinating press releases from the system's

office, editing the NEWSLETTER and working closely with the information offices at the six units.

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Both Swift and Farrant have joined the Commissioner's professional staff in Helena.

James Ness, on leave from Montana State University where he was controller, was selected to direct a project on developing a uniform accounting system for the Montana University System.

Ellen Magnuson and *Mel McKay*, both of Helena, have been hired as secretaries in the Commissioner's office.

NEWSLETTER

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